



Department of State

TELEGRAM

ACTION COPY

SECRET

CN: 321Q

RECD: 02 MAY 70

358 AM

Pol 27 Camb/Khmer

Cat. A - Caption removed;
transferred to G/ADSEC
Cat. B - Transferred to G/ADSEC
with caption and photos
created by S/S
Cat. C - Caption removed; only
retained by S/S

Reviewed by:

Date:

P 020700Z MAY 70
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 639
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON 331
BT
SECRET PHNOM PENH 700

NODIS/KHMER

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL SRAY SAMAN AND
U SAY MORNING MAY 2 MADE URGENT REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN
CONVOYING MERCHANT SHIPS ON THE MEKONG. I DID NOT GATHER WHETHER
THEY WISHED THIS ON A CONTINUING BASIS BUT FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE
THEY MENTIONED THE PROBLEM OF GETTING FIVE MERCHANT SHIPS WHICH
PRESENTLY IN PHNOM PENH DOWN RIVER. APPARENTLY CAMBODIANS ABLE
PROTECT THEM MOST OF DISTANCE BUT THERE IS ONE STRETCH FROM
PREK-DACH (WT256355) TO THE FRONTIER WHICH IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS
SINCE NAVIGATION CHANNEL IS ONLY 20 METERS FROM SHORE LINED WITH
VC.

2. GENERALS DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT KIND OF PROTECTION THEY WISHED
TO RECEIVED, WHETHER NAVAL PATROL BOATS OR FROM AIR.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENTS AND SAIGON'S VIEWS REGARDING
THIS HELP AT LEAST ON A ONE TIME BASIS AND HOW IT COULD BEST BE
EFFECTED. WE NOTE IT WOULD AGAIN POSE PROBLEM OF ENTERING INTO
CAMBODIAN TERRITORY.

COMMENT: IT IS EVIDENT THAT PROBLEM OF SAFETY ON RIVER IS ABOUT
TO CAUSE NEW PROBLEM FOR CAMBODIA, ESPECIALLY PHNOM PENH, SINCE
IMPORTANT QUANTITIES OF GOODS NORMALLY ENTER CAMBODIA THROUGH
THIS CHANNEL. UNLESS SECURITY PROBLEM RESOLVED SHORTLY IT WILL
ALSO POSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR EMBASSY WHICH EXPECTING CONSIDER-
ABLE AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE.

RIVES

BT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Ambley DATE 10/4/80

RDSDOT XDS EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

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IA or POT EXEMPTIONS

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